



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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JANE GRUNER
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BRIAN SANDOVAL
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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: December 22, 2014
2:45 p.m.

Carson City: Aging and Disability Services Division
3416 Goni Road, D-132
Carson City, NV 89706

- I. Ms. Crandy called the meeting for the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 2:51 p.m.

Members Present: Jan Crandy, Mary Liveratti, Korri Ward

Members Absent: Keri Altig, Shannon Crozier

Guests: Julie Ostrovsky, Mark Olson, Michele Tombari, Kelli Walker, Ann from Southwest Autism

Staff Present: Carol Reitz

A quorum was declared.

- II. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item)

There was no public comment.

- III. Approval of the Minutes from October 21, 2014 and October 29, 2014 and December 12, 2014 Meetings

The minutes of December 12, 2014 were reviewed and changes were made. Ms. Liveratti made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes proposed. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The minutes of October 29, 2014 were reviewed. Ms. Ward made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Liveratti seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The minutes of October 21, 2014 were reviewed and changes were made. Ms. Liveratti made a motion to accept the minutes as with the changes proposed. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Discussion and Acceptance of the Five-Year Strategic Plan as Written by
Social Entrepreneurs Incorporated
Jan Crandy, Chair

Ms. Crandy asked the Commission for their comments and changes to the plan. Ms. Liveratti said Mr. Kieckhefer's name should include his senate title as opposed to his business professional title.

Ms. Crandy pointed out the typo on Page 9 of the strategic plan which should read "Phase III" instead of Phase II twice.

Ms. Liveratti told the Commission during the time they were working on the strategies, she recommended the subcommittees continue to work on the strategies to try to accomplish them. She added she was open but thought it was better to have subcommittees working on the issues since the Commission was ultimately responsible for the strategies.

Ms. Crandy said she thought the subcommittee chairs should be responsible in getting the strategies accomplished. She recommended work groups so there doesn't need to be meetings.

Mr. Olson said he was satisfied with the content of the strategic plan. He added he was okay with being a subcommittee chair or advisory to the Commission. He added he may be limited with his time.

Ms. Crandy said they will ask the attorney general if the Commission can have work groups or if they can just give assignments that people are working on things. Ms. Liveratti said they should talk to Jane. She added ADSD (Aging and Disability Services Division) has to pick up the strategic plan and be working on it. Ms. Crandy said she is confident the Commission will go forward but was unsure of the financials to support public meetings and to support work groups.

Ms. Liveratti said they can have people assigned to different objectives and when there is a committee of one they don't have to keep minutes of themselves or public announcements. They will follow through to see what communication is being made.

Ms. Crandy said under Objective 2.1, she would like to see in 2016 that children in NEIS (Nevada Early Intervention Services) are receiving some level of ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) through collaboration with Medicaid or ATAP (Autism Treatment Assistance Program). She added children that are Medicaid eligible should receive ABA even if they are accessing services at NEIS.

There was discussion about the language for the objective benchmark in 2016. It was decided that the language under 2.1.4 should read “NEIS and their community partners will provide direct delivery of ABA to the children they serve including when eligible in collaboration with ATAP, Medicaid or private insurance.”

Ms. Tombari asked how the benchmark can be measured. Ms. Crandy said they can report to ATAP.

Ms. Crandy pointed out that on the timeline there are “Nine entrepreneurial enterprise presentations completed” listed under each year. She added it seemed like it was more than what was committed. Ms. Tombari read under Objective 2.3.2, “promote entrepreneurial enterprise and business creation opportunities for Nevadans with ASD: Governor’s office, annually, public agencies, four annually, and private entities, four annually.” She said that totals nine if the benchmarks are correct.

Ms. Liveratti asked if they can create four different business creation opportunity presentations once a year instead of four presentations a year. Ms. Crandy said Mr. Olson had looked at the plan and was satisfied with it.

Ms. Crandy said she will give the changes to Ms. Watson to make. She will ask her about having copies of the strategic plan made. Ms. Liveratti said the Commission and Steering Committee members should each receive a bound copy of the plan.

Ms. Crandy asked if the strategic plan can be used as the report to the Governor. Ms. Liveratti said she thought so as long as a cover memo was added to the front stating that the plan is what they have been working on. Ms. Crandy said she will add the latest numbers of children being served.

Ms. Liveratti made a motion to accept the 2015 to 2020 strategic plan with the changes noted and the plan will be utilized as the biannual report to the Governor. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- V. Discussion and Recommendation of BDR -67 Related to Autism Services and Insurance Coverage
Jan Crandy, Chair

Ms. Crandy informed the Commission that BDR -67 has already been pre-filed by the Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee. She said she has spoken to some of the people on the senate and will talk to others since this bill has been opened up and is out.

Ms. Crandy read a statement from Ms. Altig which said, "in favor of moving forward with the bill so folks can gain access to services more readily and RBTs (Registered Behavior Therapists) can get credentialed easier. This makes sense to me."

Ms. Crandy said she is concerned that it puts the mandate in jeopardy. She added the Commission will need the effort that was put forth to pass the mandate once again.

Ms. Ward said her view was that the families in Elko cannot access the bill since there currently is only one CABI (Certified Autistic Behavior Interventionist) in the rural area. The residents in the rural areas make a lot of money and have health insurance and cannot qualify for Medicaid. She added she is for the bill since it really helps the rural community.

Ms. Crandy said the Board of Psychological Examiners may be pushing the bill so they can regulate the RBTs. She added that Medicaid is implementing RBTs and is not under the direction of the Board of Psychological Examiners.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if she knew who was in support of it. Ms. Crandy said they don't know and there are a lot of people that said they won't hurt the mandate. It also removes the \$36,000 cap. Ms. Crandy said insurance companies can now put a limit on the number of visits. She said the bill is out there so it opens up the mandate.

Ms. Ward said trying to make the changes is good for the rural community. Ms. Ostrovsky said there is a good chance they can eliminate the insurance mandate since they are removing every government regulation. Ms. Ostrovsky said they need to talk to insurance companies. Ms. Crandy said insurance companies do not want to help us. Ms. Ostrovsky pointed out that if you look at the 180 bills that were posted, they all talk about removing any type of regulation.

Ms. Crandy said the Commission needs to keep an eye on the bill so it doesn't hurt the insurance mandate. Ms. Ostrovsky said she is hoping someone along the way does an amendment to remove the insurance cap.

Ms. Ostrovsky said she will research who sits on the Committees. She added they shift daily but will make some phone calls to find out. She told Ms. Ward that they need to do something for the rural communities. Ms. Crandy

reminded the Committee that the bill only pertains to the insurance cap and the CABI credential.

Ms. Crandy said there is a bill that Assemblyman Armstrong is carrying that deals with job training for people with autism that the Commission needs to be watching. Assemblywoman Woodbury is carrying a bill that will do the eligibility upon failed screening kids so kids can be on the ATAP waitlist to start receiving treatment at Early Intervention. She added they would also do an outcome measure for high school students. There is a federal mandate that kids exiting high school have to complete a career college assessment that some will not have to take if they do not meet a certain cognitive ability. If they can't meet it, they should be able to take a Vineland so that can be used as an outcome measure. Scores on both assessment tools will need to be reported through the school district for ATAP. It will tell the state if they are ready for employment and outcomes of how they look exiting high school. The bill is based on all disabilities. Nevada PEP will be behind it.

Ms. Crandy said that any behavior interventionists under supervision could work with children until 2017 nationally. She said she can get the person who is designing the model licensing legislation across the nation to be an expert witness to say she doesn't recommend it since it creates a barrier to access treatment. She read that it says "unless the RBT is in place prior to 2017."

Ms. Crandy said that the bill can become a practice act. She said as it stands only people billing insurance have to be licensed in Nevada. That will hurt the Commission if that act passes.

Ms. Crandy told the Committee about the bills that have to do with autism. She said BDR 824 is the bill that revises provisions governing persons with autism. BDR 811 makes various changes relating to children with disabilities. She added there are a lot of healthcare bills. AB5 is regarding day-job trainers which require divisions to give preference to providers who will employ persons with disabilities at or above minimum wage. AB29 revises provisions governing the care and treatment of people with intellectual disabilities and related conditions. Senator Roberson is doing BDR 264 which revises provisions relating to healthcare. BDR 238 is Senator Hardy proposes making various changes relating to occupational therapy. BDR 34-51 is Senator Parks proposes making various changes concerning bullying. Ms. Crandy said she will email the list of bills that the Commission should be watching.

Ms. Crandy said she will be mailing off postcards to the legislators. She will mail one a week.

Anna from Southwest Autism asked as a provider whether CABIs or RBTs need to take priority for their staff. Ms. Crandy said the CABIs are in place.

She added that in the meetings with the Board of Psychological Examiners, they are working on language for the RBT. She added that in Medicaid's state plan amendment, they are already recognizing RBTs. She said they are working on getting all of ATAP's behavior interventionists to become RBTs. Medicaid will not start paying until October 2015.

Ms. Crandy told the Commission that the Board of Psychological Examiners can pass a regulation without going to Legislation that if you have the CABI, they will just give you the RBT. She was unsure of the cost. They are working on lowering the cost of the CABI.

Ms. Crandy said if they can get the bill passed, which is a long-shot, it would be July 1, 2015 that the CABI credential is not required. They would need everyone to testify that they need more interventionists to serve the children.

There was discussion whether the Commission should support the bill. Ms. Ostrovsky reminded everyone that this is the first batch of bills. Ms. Liveratti said the Legislature will be introducing more bills after the sessions begin. It was decided that they will wait and meet at the end of January to make the decision.

Ms. Crandy suggested that when the bill goes up that the Commission supports it and gives them changes. Touro University does not want to support the removal of the CABI. Ms. Ward suggested putting a rural stipulation. Ms. Crandy said there are people in Las Vegas that can't access their insurance because there are not enough CABIs.

VI. Public Comment

(No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide secretary with written comments.)

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Crandy adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

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